The A. F. of L. Weekly News Letter contains a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

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AGITATE! EDUCATE! ORGANIZE!

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Organized Labor On Western Hemisphere Is United

Laredo, Tex., Nov. 23.—By the formation of the Pan-American Federation of Labor the foundation for peace and good will between the peoples on the western hemisphere has been built.

This foundation is not the work of exploiters, nor of diplomats or ministers of state—it is the effort of toilers in shop, mill, mine and in transportation. It is the work of those who would develop fraternity between the peoples of the United States, Canada, Mexico and other Latin American countries.

The meeting of organized workers in this city that resulted in the Pan-American Federation of Labor was attended by President Gompers and the executive council of the A. F. of L., trade union representatives from Mexico, Honduras, Nicaragua, Porto Rico, Costa Rica and Salvador and officers of national and international unions affiliated with the A. F. of L. The convention organized by electing President Gompers chairman and John Murray, secretary. Addresses were made by Secretary of Labor Wilson and Governor Hunt of Arizona. The former greeted the visitors in the name of the president of the United States.

"We want the right," he said, "to work out our destiny and we insist that all the people of the earth shall have the same right. The achievement of political democracy is not the end, but only the means to accomplish the end. And the end to be attained is the working out of our own problems in accordance with our own hearts and consciences and ideals, and not by the methods of some one above."

President Gompers presented a reconstruction platform that was adopted. The program consists of five basic principles and seven declarations "fundamental to the best interests of all nations and of vital importance to wage earners." The resolutions say:

"Whereas, we, the delegates of the first Pan-American Federation of Labor convention, meeting at such a critical time in the world's history, realizing that the problems now confronting humanity in the building of an enduring peace are no less acute than the problems of war, and being deeply and fervently desirous that in the reshaping of the world's affairs the most critical consideration be given those principles that make for an enduring peace and create equality of opportunities for the people of all nations; and,

"Whereas, the time has arrived when the organized labor movement, with full understanding of its rights, its power and resources, its value and contribution to society, must bring forward its most profound constructive thought, calculated to establish and insure the principles of true democracy; therefore, be it

"Resolved, That we declare that the following essential fundamental principles must underlie the peace as well as the principles of all civilized nations:

"A league of the free peoples of the world, in a common covenant for genuine and practical co-operation to secure justice and therefore peace in relations between nations.

"No political or economic restrictions meant simply to benefit some nations and to cripple or embarrass others.

"No reprisals based on vindictive purpose or desire to injure, but to right manifest wrongs.

"Recognition of rights of small nations and of the principle that no people must be forced under a sovereignty under which it does not wish to live.

"No territorial changes or adjustments of powers except in furtherance of the welfare of the people affected and in furtherance of world peace; and, be it further

"Resolved, That, in addition to these basic principles, there should be incorporated in the treaty which shall constitute the guide of nations of the new period and conditions into which we are entering, the following declarations fundamental to the best interests of all nations and of vital importance to wage earners:

"That in law and in practice the principle shall be recognized that the labor of human beings is not a commodity or article of commerce;

"Industrial servitude shall not exist except as a punishment for crime, whereof the party shall have been duly convicted;

"The right of free association, free assemblage, free speech and free press shall not be abridged;

"That the seamen of the merchant marine shall be guaranteed the right of leaving their vessels when the same are safe in harbor;

"No article or commodity shall be shipped or delivered in international commerce in the production of which children under the age of 16 years have been employed or permitted to work;

"It shall be declared that the basic work day in industry and commerce shall not exceed eight hours a day;

"Trial by jury should be established."

The convention was in session four days and the relations of workers in the various countries were fully discussed and understandings reached. The following officers were elected: Chairman, Samuel Gompers; English secretary, John Murray; Spanish secretary, Canuto Vargas. Panama was selected as the next convention city.

KEYNOTE OF SEA POWER IS SEAMEN, NOT SHIPS

New York, Nov. 23.—In a speech in this city Andrew Furuseth, president of the International Seamen's union, declared that history does not show a single exception to the rule that where a nation lost its sea power this can be traced to its refusal to treat its seamen as free men.

"Sea power," said the trade unionist, "was always in the seamen. Ships are the tools with which the seaman works, and the tools will ultimately belong to the nations which can handle them. Spirit and skill are requisites for seamanship and these qualities are rarely found in any but free men. If we follow the development of sea power we will find that it has always been with the free.

"America did not lose her sea power because of the civil war. She lost vessels, but it was America's failure to free the seamen when she freed all other men, that destroyed her sea power, because American seamen denied the right to quit their jobs as other wage earners, could not follow the upward trend of society, and abandoned the sea. America lost her seamen before she lost her ships. It was always thus. The decline in native seamen is followed by decline in vessels. The tools follow the workman.

"Wages of seamen depend upon the port in which they are employed, or shipped, and these wages are largely determined by the wage level in the country in which the port is located. In such ports the wages are uniform for vessels of all countries."

This policy, President Furuseth showed, resulted in the employment of the world's cheapest labor and American boys refused to accept this standard of living. Congress has remedied this condition by passing the seamen's law, which permits seamen, among other things, to quit their jobs without being arrested and returned to the ship. This compels the vessel owner to pay the prevailing wage rate at that port, and will have the effect of raising the wages of seamen throughout the world, because the vessel owner cannot hold seamen shipped from other nations when they reach an American port.

If this law can withstand the legal assaults now being made against it by the vessel owners, seamen will take their place with other free men and the sea will again attract American boys.

MAKE CHILD LABOR COSTLY.

Madison, Wis., Nov. 23.—The state industrial commission has warned employers of child labor that the workmen's compensation law makes the employment of children under age a costly proposition when the child is injured. The commission is forwarding employers copies of decisions made by it wherein one employer was fined $1,811.25 additional compensation because a boy was injured while working without a permit. In another case an employer was fined $1,0[illegible].31 because the injured employe was a minor engaged in an occupation forbidden to children of that age.

The commission gives notice that under the law it "has no discretion, but must award triple compensation to minors of permit age who are injured while employed without a permit or at unlawful employment." Should a minor thus employed contrary to law sustain an accident causing permanent total disability he may recover $22,815 as compensation, of which the employer would be liable for $15,210.

"Do not be satisfied with the mere statement of the minor or his parent that he is above the permit age," says the commission. "The minor and the parent may have lied, but this fact will not protect you. Take no chances. Be sure that you have permits on file for all children employed by you who are of permit age and that you employ no minor at an employment prohibited by law."

OPPOSE PIECE WORK.

Seattle, Nov. 23.—The metal trades council has recorded its opposition to race horse methods in shops.

"We declare ourselves on general principles," the resolution states, "opposed to any piece work, bonus, contract, task, merit (so-called), premiums, or any similar system of working other than day work, based on the principle of a fair day's work for a fair day's pay, and further declare it to be our purpose to abolish any and all such systems of working on all work under our jurisdiction, as soon as the industry returns to normal conditions, or when the employers attempt to lay off men or reduce wages."

It is declared that these systems create distrust, dishonesty and uncertainty among the workers, and that "the most highly skilled worker, whose work is more varied and not subject to piece work rates, receives less pay than the less skilled piece worker, which results in a distinct loss, through removing the incentive to become skilled."

FAVOR AMALGAMATION.

Seattle, Nov. 23.—The Pacific coast metal trades council has voted in favor of amalgamating all metal trades international unions into one organization. Metal trades councils will be asked to vote on the project and if the decision is favorable the metal trades department A. F. of L. will be asked to adopt the plan at its Atlantic City convention in June.

The convention rejected the award of the United States shipping board (known as the Macy board). Advocates of amalgamation claim that this policy would check any attempt to play eastern ship yards against those located on the west coast.

FARM WORKERS UNITING.

London, England, Nov. 23.—The unionization of farm workers in England and Wales has been phenomenal, and headquarters of the Agricultural Laborers' and Rural Workers' union have been moved to this city. In one year the union has increased its membership from a few thousand to 100,000 and it is growing at the rate of 10,000 a month.

WANT "WILSON PEACE."

Nottingham, England, Nov. 23.—At a labor conference in this city speakers urged that the coming peace terms be based on President Wilson's views.

DEFEAT HEALTH INSURANCE.

San Francisco, Nov. 23.—At the last election the plan to establish health insurance in this state was rejected.

P. O. CHIEF BURLESON URGED TO TAKE ACTION

Washington, Nov. 23.—The Commercial Telegraphers' union has appealed to the national war labor board for relief against the discriminating practices of the post office department, and the board sends this letter to Postmaster General Burleson:

"A committee representing the employes of the Western Union and Postal telegraph companies has appeared before the board and has appealed for action by it for alleged discrimination against employes of said telegraph companies, claiming that their various applications for relief presented to the wire board and wage commission of your department have not been acknowledged, and no consideration or hearings whatever have been given.

"The board feels, in view of the establishment of the wire board and wage commission, by your department, for the purpose of adjusting hours, wages and working conditions, under the principles of this board, it should not take jurisdiction until the functions of your department for such adjustments have been exhausted.

"However, we recommend that the complaints of the employes should receive your early consideration, and until it is apparent that your wire board and wage commission will not take action we hesitate to assume jurisdiction.

"The memorandum presented to this board, upon which the claims of the employes are based, is appended hereto."

CHILDREN IN CANNERIES.

Washington, Nov. 23.—An investigation by the children's bureau, department of labor, shows that very young children were employed in vegetable canneries during the past season and many of them escaped all school laws. Children from 7 to 16 years old were found employed a large part of the year at irregular hours and usually living in unsanitary and crowded camps. The children were employed in the various processes of canning, including peeling tomatoes and husking corn. Those too small to reach the tables stood on boxes placed on wet, slippery floors. In 270 canneries in Maryland and Virginia 1,094 children under 14 years were found at work.

When the federal child labor law became effective a number of the most important canning states—Maryland, Delaware, Virginia, Indiana, Michigan and California—exempted canneries from their child labor laws. The federal act specifically included such establishments so that during its operation canneries shipping their products in interstate or foreign commerce could not employ children under 14 nor those between 14 and 16 years old more than eight hours a day or at night.

The last Maryland and Virginia legislatures amended the child labor laws of those states by including canneries thereby equalizing the state and federal standards. When, however, the federal law was declared unconstitutional, before the last canning season was opened, the national protection of children was removed and their employment, the inquiry showed, was continued.

KEEP YOUR INSURANCE.

Washington, Nov. 23.—Keep your insurance, is the advice Secretary of the Treasury McAdoo gives to soldiers and sailors holding government insurance. These policies, he says, should be kept up by the fighters to protect their families and give them the right to convert them into other forms to be provided by the government. The insurance may be continued for five years or converted within that time. If policies are allowed to lapse, the right of the soldiers and sailors to take other forms of government insurance can not be regained.

The law provides that not later than five years after the war this insurance shall be converted, without medical examination, into ordinary life, or 20-payment life, or endowment maturing at age of 62, or into other usual forms of insurance, which will continue to be government insurance. The various forms of policies which the bureau of war risk insurance will write are now being prepared.

"Every person in the military or naval service owes it to himself and to his family to hold on to Uncle Sam's insurance," says Secretary McAdoo. "It is the strongest, safest and cheapest life insurance ever written. When government insurance is allowed to lapse the soldier can not again obtain insurance except from private companies at a considerable increase in cost."

NEW U. S. LABOR BOARD.

Washington, Nov. 23.—Director General of Railroads McAdoo has announced the creation of board of adjustment No. 3 which will pass upon disputes over interpretations of wage awards between railroad executives and railroad telegraphers, switchmen, clerks and maintenance-of-way employes.

This board consists of four representatives appointed by the railroad administration and one each by the Order of Railroad Telegraphers, Brotherhood of Railway Clerks, United Brotherhood of Maintenance-of-Way Employes and Shop Laborers and Switchmen's union. Its functions are similar to board No. 1, which includes the four railroad brotherhoods, and board No. 2, which includes the organized railroad shop men.

MOONEY'S PLEA DENIED.

Washington, Nov. 23.—The United States supreme court has denied the plea of Thomas J. Mooney to review the proceedings of his trial which resulted in his conviction and sentence of death on December 13 next. The court made no comment in refusing the motion. The single word "Denied," uttered by Chief Justice White means that Mooney's last card in the courts has been played, and that his life is now in the hands of Governor Stephens of California.

U. S. LOSSES 100,000.

Washington, Nov. 23.—Government officials estimate that war losses of this country will approximate 100,000. This includes the men killed in action, wounded, died of disease, accidents and missing. It is believed that it will be several weeks before the complete list of casualties can be completed.

GARMENT WORKERS GAIN.

New York, Nov. 23.—Employes in the women's wrapper and kimono industry have secured wage increases of $4 and $5 a week.

WHY MEN LEAVE JOBS.

Washington, Nov. 23.—Workers leave their jobs because of unfair treatment is the discovery, after eight months' investigation, by Russell Waldo, connected with the employment department of the Stenotype company, Indianapolis. Mr. Waldo's discovery contains nothing new to the workers, but it is considered of such importance that it is published in the United States Employment Service Bulletin just prior to the close of the war. Mr. Waldo says, in part:

"It has been my privilege in the last eight months to study in detail the employment propositions offered by several of the largest manufacturing industries of one of the largest inland cities. In this study I have carefully analyzed the reason why men left their jobs. A principal reason I have found to be that they were receiving a wage far too small for their immediate requirements. The workers could not supply themselves with the things which would make them enjoy their surroundings better. All they could have were the bare essentials of life, some times not even that. The employer made no provision for the employe's advancement either at the shop or outside of working hours.

"It is in this way that the wage earners of this great nation have been held down. It has been impossible for them to educate themselves in a way that would make them better citizens.

"One of the great injustices inflicted upon labor today and one which seriously handicaps war production is the absence of a fair deal to the employe."

MUCH AUSTRALIAN WHEAT.

Melbourne, Victoria, Australia, Nov. 23.—Now that the menace of German submarines has been removed, the enormous Australian wheat crop can relieve the food shortage of Europe.

The stupendous amount of this wheat now stored in Australia is indicated by a correspondent in the Labor Call, who says:

"Stacks at Williamstown contain 5,614,586 bags, and those at Geelong 2,920,601 bags. Deliveries to millers aggregate 3,258,269 bags, and there are still in the country 115,899 bags. Certificates issued by the commission represent 11,879,895 bags, equal to 56,-115,736 bushels. The total stacked in New South Wales on August 31 was 12,627,198 bags, of which 7,302,899 bags were of 1917-18 grain. That is a colossal accumulation of grain, and another harvest is upon us. What can be done with it? Silos are to be constructed at Geelong and Williamstown at a heavy expenditure, and the upkeep of this enormous surplus of grain runs into thousands of pounds yearly. The situation is staggering—an unprecedented situation."

DEMOCRACY AND PROFITS.

San Francisco, Nov. 23.—Under the above caption Editor Scharrenberg of the Seamen's Journal says:

"While discussing the action of the United States steel corporation in advancing wages and granting the basic eight-hour day and, at the same time, continuing its refusal to recognize the unions, Secretary Frank Morrison of the American Federation of Labor said: 'The trade union movement insists that high wages and kind masters is not democracy.'

"Well said, Brother Morrison.

"Democracy still has a higher aim and nobler vision than the well-filled dinner pail. Democracy is government by the people—in fact as well as in name.

"Of course, this ideal of a real democracy is far beyond the horizon of America's plutocracy.

"The 1917 profits of the United States steel corporation were $457,-685,950. Its pre-war profits amounted to a measly $162,585,777.

"Under the circumstances why should a steel corporation magnate bother his head with the ethics of applied democracy?"

ALL FUEL ORDERS STAND.

Washington, Nov. 23.—The United States fuel administration announces that since the signing of the armistice fuel regulations have been altered in only two cases. Warning is given that government supervision of fuel will continue until the peace treaty is signed.

A coal curtailment of 50 per cent on the manufacture of building material, including brick, cement, lime and tile, has been removed to coincide with the program of the war industries board to lift the ban on building material industry.

STEEL WORKERS GAIN.

Louisville, Ky., Nov. 23.—The Louisville Steel and Iron company has signed the wage agreement of its organized iron workers.

Pittsburg, Pa., Nov. 23.—Officers of the Amalgamated Association of Iron, Tin and Steel Workers report that new lodges have been formed in Atlanta and Cleveland.

CITY LABORERS GAIN.

Baltimore, Nov. 23.—Hereafter city laborers will be paid 40 cents an hour for an eight-hour day.

ARMY OF CHILDREN AT WORK

Philadelphia, Nov. 23.—In an address to 1,000 teachers and welfare workers Holman White, district superintendent of schools, declared that a vast army of children is illegally employed in this city, and especially in the Hog Island ship yard. He also said that there is a program on foot to have anti-child labor laws repealed at the next session of the state legislature and to have new bills introduced that will facilitate the exploitation of child labor.

Owen R. Lovejoy, general secretary of the national child labor committee, said:

"We took our children out of the schools when there was no reason or necessity for it whatever, except, of course, the closing of schools where the teachers had left. But other schools were closed because the former pupils had begun their curriculum of child labor."

"The executive officers of the government, from President Wilson down protested repeatedly against this violation, not only of the rights of childhood but of the best interests of the nation, and the war labor policies board issued an order prohibiting the employment of children under 14 years old in government contract work. This is the only protection of that kind that the United States has been affording the children of America since the child labor act of 1916 was annulled by decision of the supreme court last June. Official statements of the department of labor inform us that there has been a vast increase in the amount of child labor since that law went out of effect. To that testimony anybody can add the testimony of his own eyes. The evidence is everywhere."

MAKE OVER $5,000,000.

Madison, Wis., Nov. 23.—Five concerns in this city, working largely on war contracts, have made profits of $5,293,018 in five years, according to the Capital Times.

"Several months ago," writes Editor Evjue, "the men who made these millions sat over in the state senate chamber at a wage hearing conducted by Uncle Sam. Testimony was brought out there showing that wages being paid in Madison were too low.

"We are hearing considerable superficial talk these days about making Madison a better town. Most of this talk is of the soap bubble variety. It blows up because it doesn't deal with fundamentals.

"One of the fundamentals that will have to be faced in the constructive work of making Madison a better town is the proper recognition of labor. Labor must be looked upon as a human thing and not as a commodity.

"Employers are too much inclined to think that labor is something that can be bought in the open market like machinery, steel and iron. Therefore they fight collective bargaining which elevates the human consideration in labor and attempt to keep the individual laboring man down by isolation."

REPEAL "NO-STRIKE" ORDER.

Ottawa, Canada, Nov. 23.—The government has repealed its "no-strike" order, passed October 11.

"The 'no-strike' order," the government announces, "was issued only for the purpose of maintaining industrial peace during the continuation of the war and is canceled because it has served its purpose and is no longer necessary."

The order aroused organized labor throughout the Dominion, and in every section much feeling was developed.

While the government has repealed its October 11 order, it has issued a new order defining the status, under the military service act, of employers and employes. Some unionists believe this is but a repetition of the first order.

W. U. VIOLATES LAW.

Chicago, Nov. 23.—Writing in the Commercial Telegraphers' Journal, R. J. Horwood of Dallas, Texas, says officers of the company "union" of telegraphers "are riding over the country on free transportation furnished by the Western Union.

"They are," he declares, "using the wires freely for transmission of their propaganda, checked 'DH Co.' or 'DH Employes,' in direct violation of the law."

FAVOR TWO-PLATOON PLAN.

Portland, Ore., Nov. 23.—At the last election this city indorsed the two-platoon system for municipal firemen by a majority of 11,521. The vote was: For, 26,314; against, 14,793.

Detroit, Mich., Nov. 23.—At the last election this city adopted a charter amendment granting municipal firemen a 24-hour on and a 24-hour off shift.

PAPER MAKERS STRIKE.

Marinette, Wis., Nov. 23.—Paper makers at this place are on strike to enforce wage demands. These workers presented their new rates to the company on July 3 last and since that time have failed to secure a satisfactory adjustment.

BUSINESS MEN PROTECTED.

Washington, Nov. 23.—Business men holding government war work contracts are fully protected from loss because of the sudden ending of the war.

Government officials call attention to supply circular No. 88, dated September 7 last, which establishes definitely the payments to be made by the United States in the event of termination of contracts for any manufactured articles for raw material, articles in process of manufacture and debts contracted in connection with the contracts. Provision is also made for payment by the United States to the contractors for a fair amount on account of depreciation or amortization of plants, facilities and equipment of the contractor for the performance of his contract.

In return the government is released from its obligation to take the remaining articles not manufactured specified in the contract and to pay anticipated profits to the contractor on the unfinished portions of the contract.

This means that the government will assume debts contracted because the raw material was not used, will pay for any depreciation of plants or equipment, will meet any loss by the contractor or manufacturer resulting in changing the plant or equipment from a war to a peace basis and will also pay for raw material and the profit on the finished articles that the business man anticipated.

"FLU" TOLL LEADS WAR.

Washington, Nov. 23.—The recent epidemic of influenza in this country caused more deaths than occurred among the American forces from all causes from the time the first unit landed in France until hostilities ceased.

This announcement, made by the United States census bureau, is based on unofficial estimates of the total casualties among the overseas forces and reports from 46 cities having a combined population of 23,000,000, which showed 82,306 deaths from influenza and pneumonia from September 9 to November 9.

Normally these cities would have had 4,000 deaths from these causes during this period, it was said, leaving approximately 78,000 as the number properly chargeable to the epidemic.

"The total casualties in the American forces," says the announcement, "have recently been unofficially estimated at 100,000. On the basis of the number thus far reported it may be assumed that the deaths from all causes, including disease and accidents, are probably less than 45 per cent., and may not be more than 40 per cent. of the total casualties. On this assumption the loss of life in the American forces to date is about 40,000 or 45,000."

OFFICERS ARE DUMMIES.

New York, Nov. 23.—At a hearing to fix the responsibility for the recent wreck on the lines of the Brooklyn Rapid Transit company, which killed nearly 100 passengers, President Halleck of the Consolidated Railway company, the operating company, acknowledged he was a figurehead. He would not agree that he was a dummy official because he does not like the term. The wreck followed a strike after the company refused to obey an order of the national war labor board to reinstate 29 victimized trade unionists. When the unionists suspended work a strikebreaker attempted to operate the train.

The company's attorney said it wanted to submit the war labor board's order to trustees of the Brooklyn Rapid Transit Benevolent association. The district attorney showed that this association is a company institution in every particular, that its president is appointed by the company, its treasurer is the company's treasurer and that its by-laws provide against any action inimical to the company.

URGE MOTHERS' PENSIONS.

Philadelphia, Nov. 23.—Mothers' pensions were indorsed by Henry J. Gideon, chief of the bureau of compulsory education, in a speech in this city.

"If the mother," he said, "must depend upon her children for support, and the law says they shall go to school, the state should provide her with an income to secure food and clothing."

JOHN P. WHITE RESIGNS.

Washington, Nov. 23.—John P. White, director of the bureau of labor of the United States fuel administration, has resigned. When this country entered the war Mr. White resigned the office of president of the United Mine Workers of America to accept the position he now retires from.

CIGAR MAKERS GAIN.

Hannibal, Mo., Nov. 23.—Organized cigar makers have secured their second wage increase within the last several weeks. The latest averages 15 per cent.

OPPOSE CHINESE LABOR.

Portland, Ore., Nov. 23.—The Armstrong Manufacturing company is opposed to the importation of Chinese labor, advocated by large interests masking as the western states agricultural development committee. Before the war ended ballots were mailed to business firms asking for "an expression of opinion" on the question of temporarily admitting Chinese laborers, and the Armstrong management replied:

"If more Chinamen are allowed to come here under any pretense, some excuse may arise for leaving them here when we do not want or need them, now or any time.

"One thousand real estate dealers in this vicinity organized recently to unify and regulate their business. These 1,000 dealers probably represent not less than 1,000 more men or women as clerks and stenographers. We mention this as only one of several occupations that contribute nothing to feed, clothe or house any one, or to winning the war.

"Let our officials declare a lot of these occupations non-essential and close them during the war. We are sure at least one adult out of every 10 of the inhabitants of this country would be thus released, and that would make 11,000,000 available men.

"We can obliterate kaiserism in Europe without infesting our country with Orientals."

TARRED AND FEATHERED.

Jackson, Mich., Nov. 23.—Herbert Crawford, International Association of Machinists' organizer, was taken from his hotel in this city and tarred and feathered. The mob was led by a uniformed sergeant of the Michigan state constabulary. The mob also broke into the room of a traveling man, who was assaulted some what less severely. The reason for this is that the mob thought they had hold of another machinists' organizer.

Crawford was engaged in organizing at the time. The local daily press gave the incident small attention.

One editor, with his eye on the cash register, published this statement:

"It is reported that an I. W. W. agitator from outside the city was taken in hand by vigilantes Saturday night and treated to a coating of tar and feathers and told to leave town and to let no grass grow under his feet while he was doing so. He is said to have appeared at one or two houses in the south part of town and when last seen was inquiring his way to the hotel where he was stopping. He was making use of a union card to gain entrance to local labor circles."

A different policy is taken by Editor Henley, of the Square Deal, official newspaper of the Jackson trades council, who gives the widest publicity to this exhibition of mob law.

WAGE RATE INCLUDES JAPS.

Montreal, Canada, Nov. 23.—Canadian railway board of adjustment No. 1 has ruled that wage awards for maintenance-of-way employes on the British Columbia division of the Canadian Pacific railway shall apply to Japs and other Oriental labor.

The employes held that the original award should include all workers doing the same service without regard to whether the individual "was black, white or yellow."

Trade unionists express the opinion that decisions of this character will go far toward lessening the cry for the importation of Oriental labor.

The adjustment board is a voluntary organization consisting of six representatives of the railroads and an equal number representing organized railroad employes.

FAVOR LABOR PARTY.

Chicago, Nov. 23.—The Chicago federation of labor has submitted to its affiliates a plan to organize a labor party. If the plan is indorsed a convention will be called and a ward and precinct organization campaign started. The platform presented includes full recognition of trade unions, government ownership of natural resources, tax on land values, the eight-hour day, equal pay regardless of sex, league of nations, labor representation at the peace conference, opposition to child labor, representation of labor in proportion to its voting strength in all government departments and upon all government boards of demobilization.

"NO WOMEN IN FOUNDRIES."

Portland, Ore., Nov. 23.—Organized iron molders are against the installation of women in iron foundries in this city. At a hearing before the industrial welfare commission Organizer Burns of the Iron Molders' union told of the harmful effects if this plan was followed. He showed that the work is too heavy and that the fumes would result in permanent injury to the women.

CROTHERS RESIGNS.

Ottawa, Canada, Nov. 23.—Hon. Thomas Crothers, minister of labor for the Dominion of Canada, has resigned. It is stated that ill health is the cause. He is succeeded by Senator Gideon Robertson, third vice president of the Order of Railroad Telegraphers.

FRANK WALSH RESIGNS FROM U. S. LABOR BOARD

Washington, Nov. 23.—Frank P. Walsh, joint chairman with William H. Taft of the national war labor board, has resigned from that body. In his letter to the president he says:

"Professional engagements, long assumed prior to the creation of the board, make it imperative that I should return to my practice at the earliest possible moment. Of course, I could have no thought of resigning, small as my actual service may have been, during the hostilities.

"Your confidence in me and many acts of kindness during my service upon the board I appreciate beyond expression; although my respect and admiration for you personally, as well as my devotion to all of the things which you represent, could not have been enhanced."

If the president accepts the resignation William Harman Black, alternate for Mr. Walsh, automatically becomes joint chairman of the board, unless other arrangements are made. Mr. Black is a New York attorney.

Prior to Mr. Walsh's letter the board informed Secretary of Labor Wilson that they were anxious to return to their private affairs, but that they would be guided by the president's wishes. Secretary Wilson was requested "to bring this matter to the attention of the president in order that the board may be informed of his wishes in the premises."

It is stated that cases pending before the board in which the awards will have retroactive effect number more than 100. There are some 300 cases in which hearings have not begun.

OPPOSE WAGE REDUCTIONS.

Indianapolis, Nov. 23.—In defeating autocracy, labor will not accept wage reductions as its reward, declared Frank J. Hayes, president of the United Mine Workers, in discussing the suggestion that wages must be cut.

"Wages have gone up during the war," he said, "but they have not advanced proportionately to the increased cost of living. All authorities agree that there is no likelihood of prices declining for at least a year. But despite this prophecy, councils of employers are now devising programs to batter wages down. It is this scheming that organized labor must combat. We can not parley, linger, wait. Our forces must be up and doing, not only to thwart attempted reduction but to win additional gains to meet living costs which present-day wages are so inadequate to cope with.

"We have talked billions during the war, and as a result commercial leaders who used to think in millions are now planning billion-dollar enterprises. Corners for domestic trade, corners for foreign trade, are the dreams of leaders of proposed gigantic combines to realize their ambitions. And, of course, these leaders point with assurance to their ability to decrease wages to price their production beyond competition.

"Labor must accept no reductions. Having patriotically mined the coal, manufactured the munitions, built the ships and offered their sons, that made possible the defeat of autocracy, labor will not accept as its reward a reduction in wages."

TIMBER WORKERS WARNED.

Seattle, Nov. 22.—Secretary-Treasurer Norland of the International Union of Timber Workers warns these workers that an attempt will be made to establish long hours and low wages in the northwest as soon as government restrictions are removed.

To justify this belief the trade unionist points to the attitude of employers during the past year when the government needed a maximum production of timber.

"They have actually ignored," says Norland, "the government's interest and welfare during the critical war period and did so to such an extent that the government has been forced to compel a majority of them to a reasonable position.

"So we can not expect a people who are so autocratic and selfish, who would actually sacrifice our very government to promote their own selfish interests, to do other than force their employes down to the lowest standard. So I warn our members of the northwest to do all they can towards strengthening their organization; for in that way only can they expect to resist the long hours and low wages, which will undoubtedly be attempted, as soon as the government restriction is lifted."

KEY MEN'S WAGES RAISED.

Washington, Nov. 23.—Wage increases have been granted railroad telegraphers by Director General of Railroads McAdoo. A flat minimum of 35 cents an hour was established and to this was added 13 cents an hour with time and one-half for over eight hours. Wages paid January 1 last were used as a basis upon which to compute the award. The new rates date back to October 1. The award is a compromise with rates urged by the Order of Railroad Telegraphers. The workers affected are telegraphers, telephone operators (other than switchboard operators), agent-telegraphers, agent-telephone operators, tower men, lever men, train dispatchers, tower directors, block operators and staff men.

TAKES EXPRESS BUSINESS.

Washington, Nov. [illegible].—Another step in the direction of government ownership of the express business has been taken by a proclamation issued by the president in which the government takes over the express business of the country now carried on by a consolidation of the express companies through the newly-created American Railway Express company. The operation of the new government function is assigned to Secretary of the Treasury McAdoo, who is also director general of railroads under control of the government.

GAIN $10 A MONTH.

San Francisco, Nov. 23.—An arbitrator has advanced wages $10 a month for members of the Milk Wagon Drivers' union. The award dates back to October 1 and establishes a minimum of $[illegible] a month. [illegible] drivers will be paid $[illegible]. Overtime and work done on days off will be paid at the rate of time and one-half.

TRACKMEN ORGANIZE.

Dubuque, Iowa, Nov. 23.—Maintenance-of-way employes on the Milwaukee railroad have organized and will affiliate with the trade union movement.

Organized Labor Will Resist Wage Cuts, Declares Gompers

Laredo, Tex., Nov. 23.—In the closing hours of the Pan-American labor conference President Gompers served notice on wage-reduction advocates that labor will not accept this policy, and that it will not surrender one point of its advanced position.

The trade unionist's statement was an answer to the claim of William H. Barr, president of the National Founders' association, that lower wages and longer hours are necessary to permit American industry to meet foreign competition.

"Notice is given here and now," said President Gompers, "that the American people will not be forced back either by Barr, his association or all the bourbons in the United States.

"There are some people who will not understand; there are some people who do not understand all that is meant by the willingness of the people of the democracies to fight and make the sacrifices in order that a better time shall come to the worker.

"The American labor movement will co-operate with all other agencies to help in this reconstruction time. Our movement is not to destroy, but to construct. And all may just as well understand now as at any other time that the advantages which the workers of America and of the allied countries have gained, and which we hope to extend to the people even of the conquered countries, are not going to be taken from us. And we will resist that attempt to the utmost."

WAGE REDUCTION PLAN "TOO HOT TO HANDLE"

New York, Nov. 23.—William H. Barr has found that his wage reduction and long-hour plan is, to use a base ball term, "too hot to handle."

Mr. Barr is president of the National Founders' association. At the opening session of the annual convention he orated at length on his method to meet foreign competition. He referred to wage reductions as "liquidating wages." It was the old, old scare crow, which President Gompers quickly took a shot at. President Barr is now trying to let loose. And he's angry at the A. F. of L. executive, who he charged "with misinterpreting the spirit and intent" of his wage liquidation scheme.

Mr. Barr has now reached the explanation stage.

"Unquestionably," he says, "the manufacturer is more deeply concerned in working out the great common industrial problems than are those individuals and organizations whose principal efforts are confined to vituperation and reduction of output.

"If our manufacturers can maintain their industries and furnish employment to all classes of workers on an eight-hour basis the situation would be welcome. Otherwise, the result would be a common calamity with the worker the chief sufferer." The same general principles applied to wages, he asserted.

A careful reading of the above statement shows that the iron founder has changed his tactics, but not his views.

It is whispered that certain far-sighted employers have voted Mr. Barr as eligible to the "mutt" class.

WHEN WAR LAWS WILL EXPIRE

Washington, Nov. 23.—Legislation passed to perfect this country's war machine will expire on the following dates:

Control of railroads—21 months after the war (proclamation of peace).

Control of telegraph and telephone lines—During the war.

Food and fuel control—End of the war.

Espionage act—End of the war.

Housing construction—End of the war, except for ship builders.

Labor employment—During the emergency.

Re-organization of government bureaus under the Overman law—Six months after the war.

Government operation of ships—Five years after the war.

Air craft board—Six months after the war.

War trade board and export control—End of the war.

War finance corporation—Six months after the war, with further time for liquidating.

Capital issues committee—Six months after the war.

Alien property custodian—End of the war, with extension of time for certain duties.

Agricultural stimulation—End of present emergency.

TAX CHILD LABOR PRODUCTS.

Washington, Nov. 23.—A bill has been introduced in the senate providing for a tax of 10 per cent on the net profits of persons employing child labor within prohibited ages in addition to all other taxes.

The theory of this legislation is indorsed by child labor opponents who have been studying methods to evade the decision of the United States supreme court when it invalidated the federal child labor law last summer, that congress can not bar child labor products from interstate commerce. The new legislation is based on the theory that the court will hold that congress has the right to regulate this commerce.

JANITORS ASK INCREASE.

Chicago, Nov. 23.—The [illegible] organized flat janitors in this city have asked building owning associations to confer with them that wages may be increased the first of next year.

Before the war these workers signed a contract that does not expire until January, 1919, and they have carried out that contract regardless of the increased cost of living.

NEW LABOR TEMPLE.

Jacksonville, Fla., Nov. 23.—The trade union movement has [illegible] its new labor temple, a [illegible] building on the St. Johns river. The purchase price was $[illegible].

PRESSMEN RAISE WAGES.

Atlanta, Ga., Nov. 23.—Pressmen's union No. [illegible] has established the new wage scale. Rates range from $[illegible] a week for pressmen down to $[illegible] a week for assistants.